

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## SOUTHERN OREGON ASPIRE

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# OUR STORY

## INSPIRING UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO CREATE THE LIFE THEY CHOOSE.

Southern Oregon Aspire was founded in 1975 by a group of parents wanting more for their children.

Instead of placing their loved ones in a state institution or restricting their interactions to only their home, these parents sought a better life for their children, believing their children had the right to live the life they choose in our community.

Today, Southern Oregon Aspire is continuing to make that belief a reality as we provide Residential and Employment supports for over 130 Individuals with intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in Josephine County.

### OUR VISION

We believe all people should be seen for their abilities and should have the opportunity and freedom to explore, choose the life they want to live, and be an active part of our community.

### OUR VALUES

Person-Centered Supports  
Relationships  
Inclusion  
Integrity  
Respect



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# SARAH COLLINS

Guided by our mission, this report highlights our achievements, community partnerships, and the contributions of our dedicated team members as we work together to Inspire Unlimited Opportunities for People to Create the Life They Choose. We continue to make strides in providing support and opportunities for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

Our organization is privileged to have a dedicated team who consistently demonstrates a willingness to support one another, exemplifying the values of teamwork and compassion. In 2023, we not only made the top 10 list for Oregon Business Magazines' 100 Best Nonprofits to work for in Oregon, we ranked #5! We are immensely grateful for our team's tireless efforts in creating positive outcomes for individuals with I/DD.

Southern Oregon Aspire remains steadfast in its belief in empowering individuals with I/DD to make choices and pursue their goals and dreams. We are committed to fostering environments where all individuals are recognized for their abilities, promoting a culture of respect and dignity.

Southern Oregon Aspire celebrates the achievements and progress made in 2023. We extend our sincere gratitude to our donors, dedicated staff, supportive community partners, and the individuals we serve. Together, we continue to *Inspire Unlimited Opportunities for People to Create the Life They Choose*.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**EMPLOYMENT  
SERVICES**

**RESIDENTIAL  
SUPPORTS**

**SUPPORTED  
LIVING**





## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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In 2023, our Community Employment Department experienced significant growth as we continued to support Career Seekers in their community jobs.

We forged new partnerships with businesses like the Chamber of Commerce and Partake Lounge, who added multiple positions for individuals we support.

Our Janitorial and Landscape teams made great strides in building job skills and confidence. Barry, a supported employee, expressed, "My job in Landscaping means the world to me, and I wouldn't change it for anything." This progress fostered a strong sense of pride in their work.

Our work team volunteered 1,200+ hours at the Josephine County Food Bank helping feed our local community. They provided additional support by distributing community event posters and assembling the city's monthly water bills.

Our collaboration with Gates Furniture, named Employer Partner of the Year, was a mutual success. Gates Furniture's General Manager, Ben, noted, "My experience has been an amazing one. Not only seeing the growth for us, but also the Individuals that work for us. The smiles on their faces and watching someone learn new techniques and skills, then watching their transformation."

These achievements are laying a solid foundation for our Community Employment Department to help Career Seekers *Live the Lives They Choose*.



## RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS

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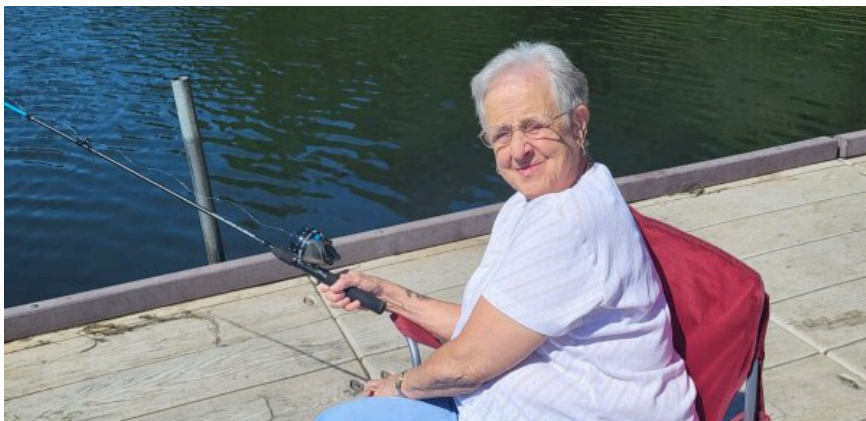
Our residential team made significant strides, from helping individuals fulfill bucket list dreams to remodeling homes and enjoying the community.

Southern Oregon Aspire launched a successful end-of-year campaign to fund renovations for the Oregon House, home to five incredible women. Thanks to generous community support, significant upgrades were made possible.

We are dedicated to helping people achieve their dreams. For example, one couple enjoyed bucket list trips, including the last Oregon Ducks vs. Beavers game and a dream vacation to Oahu, Hawaii!

We also ensured smooth transitions for individuals with aging needs. When a long-term resident, who's been with SOA since 1979, faced a major health event that required a stay in a rehabilitation center. We successfully brought her back to her familiar environment at SOA. We shared a warm homecoming for her and the support staff, some of whom had worked with her for over 20 years!

Southern Oregon Aspire continues to grow with a commitment to provide high-quality supports and be an employer who values its staff. Together, with both of these being at the forefront, we are *Inspiring Unlimited Opportunities for People to Create the Life They Choose.*



## SUPPORTED LIVING

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We focused on enhancing living spaces at Midstep, our apartment complex for independent-living individuals with disabilities.

We completed several renovations including new appliances, resealing the parking lot, and upgrading the surroundings. Special thanks to the Four Way Foundation, Carpenter Foundation, and Grants Pass Rotary for their crucial support in the restoration and to Stephen Edwards of Grants Pass Painting, who generously repainted the entire complex! Thanks to their community support, the residents now have a home they can take pride in.

Our Supported Living Program (SLP) also coordinated a lot of fun this year, with trips to Crater Lake, Portland, Rogue River Gorge, Wildlife Safari, deep-sea fishing, camping, rafting, and the Candy Lane Express train ride.

We are committed to meeting the diverse needs of those we support. For individuals needing more care than SLP could provide, we successfully transitioned them to our residential program, ensuring they receive the appropriate support in a comfortable environment. For many of our individuals, SOA has been their home for most of their lives, and we offer quality support in an environment that works for them so they can continue to *Live the Life They Choose*.

# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

## 48 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES

132

### TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED

Total number of individuals served by Southern Oregon Aspire in all programs - Residential Services, Community Living, and Employment Supports.

98

### INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Total number of individuals supported by Southern Oregon Aspire through employment services, including Small Group Employment, Community Job Coaching, and Job Development.

27

### CONTRACTED SITES WITH SMALL GROUP EMPLOYMENT

These businesses and organizations contract for Janitorial, Landscape, and other services. Our contracted partners provide our Supported Employees with the opportunity to work and learn valuable job skills.

44

### COMMUNITY EMPLOYER PARTNERS

Our employment partners employ our supported individuals or allow Southern Oregon Aspire to perform career assessments with Career Seekers, offering opportunities to learn new skills and try a variety of jobs.

49

### INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH 24-HOUR SUPPORTS

Individuals supported in our Residential Services Program receive 24-hour supports by our Direct Support Professionals in one of our 14 residential homes.

26

### INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH SUPPORTED LIVING

Individuals supported through Supported Living have the opportunity to have the freedom of living in their own home, while still receiving regular support from Direct Support Professionals.

# FINANCIAL REPORT



**\$10,372,767**

**TOTAL REVENUE**



**\$10,495,560**

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

## REVENUE

**Contract Services  
through State Funding**  
\$8,521,768

**Commercial Contracted  
Services**  
\$834,359

**Room & Board**  
\$418,708

**Grants & Donations**  
\$183,180

**Other - Leases,  
Investments, etc.**  
\$ 414,752

## EXPENSES

**Residential Supports**  
\$5,714,878

**Employment Services**  
\$2,268,519

**Community Living**  
\$594,955

**Administration**  
\$1,917,208

# LEADERSHIP TEAM



**SARAH COLLINS**  
**Chief Executive  
Officer**  
2017



**MEGHAN BOEHM**  
**Chief Financial  
Officer**  
2018



**JESSICA ELDRED**  
**Human Resources  
Director**  
2015



**ANTHONY HAUCKES**  
**Employment  
Development  
Director**  
2022



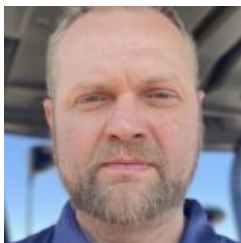
**BRITTANY BUNTING**  
**Residential Director**  
2009



**JULIA EVANS**  
**Residential Director**  
2000



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**BEN PEARSON**

**Board President**

June 2023



**TAMMIE SCHMIDT-KIRK**

**Vice President**

June 2023



**KURT TAMASHIRO**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

February 2019



**JIM HAMILTON**

**Board Member**

December 2020



**MARGARET FORSBERG**

**Board Member**

February 2020

# THANK YOU DONORS

Ann Bauer  
Anna C. Demeduk  
Applegate River Golf Club  
Apricity Vineyards  
Ben E. Freudenberg  
Betty M. Patterson  
Bohemian Bar & Bistro  
Brad & Katherine Clayton  
Cascade Self Storage  
Catalyst Pizza Co.  
Caveman Kiwanis Club  
Christina Macguire  
DANCIN Vineyards  
Danette & Robby Harfst  
Daryl Boehm  
Davison Painting  
Dixon Golf  
Drake Paint  
Dutch Brothers  
Enterprise Holdings  
Epicure  
Erinn and Eunora Fralich  
Evelyn Holbmeck  
Fields Home Center  
First Community Credit  
Union  
Gary Rolfness  
Grants Pass Ladies 9  
Grants Pass Painting  
Grants Pass Toyota  
Great Clips  
Greg Preston  
Hart Jewelers  
Holiday Inn Express  
Home Away From Home  
Hull & Hull Funeral  
Directors  
Human Bean

James & Alison Huber  
Jayce Holland  
Jeff & Kyra Ecklund  
Jen & Tim Roberts  
Jim Clark's Consignment  
Country  
Jody Conrad  
Karen & Jeff Burbridge  
Kathi Holbmeck  
Kathleen L. McFarland  
Kathryn S. Svendsen  
KDRV NewsWatch 12  
Kimberlie Nicholl  
Kurt & Barbara Tamashiro  
Larry & Marybeth Camire  
Larry & Ranae Thornton  
Linda Infelise  
Lori Weignant  
Lyle & Mary Jackson  
Marie Guerrero  
Mark Reilling  
Marshall & Diane Sullivan  
Mary Henderson  
Michael Bridenbeck  
Mount Shasta Resort  
Nick & Julie Kanta  
Oilstop  
Oregon Outpost  
Oregon Paint Company  
Oregon Pizza & Pour  
Authority  
Patricia Soto  
Patrick Murphy  
Paul & Linda Hansen  
Pints N Wine Pour House  
Pottery Canvas & Stone

River Stone Massage  
Rodda Paint  
Rogue Carwash  
Rogue Creamery  
Rogue Valley Country Club  
Ron Shrode  
Rotary Club of Grants Pass  
Rudy Rugenstein  
Salvador Flores  
Sammi Lu's Custom Hand  
Bags  
Schmidt Family Vineyards  
See's Candies  
Seven Feathers  
Sharon E. McCorkle  
Sherwin Williams  
Shirley Nikura-George  
Spectrum  
Stephen Family Chapel  
Steve & Debbie King  
Steve & Kristi Roe  
Sue Orris  
Susan Deligiannis  
Susan Meservier  
Suzanne Lavine  
Tacomania  
Taylor's Sausage  
The Glass Forge  
The Horny Goat Gatro Pub  
Tonya Harboldt  
Wild River Brewing  
Zephyr Fund

# THANK YOU PARTNERS

**Adapt  
Albertson's  
Amerititle  
Asante  
Barnstormer's  
Best Western  
BikeKraft  
Boothe Street Thrift  
Burger King  
Caveman Bowl  
Century 21 JC Jones  
Children's Coalition  
City of Grants Pass  
Creative Supports, Inc  
Crossing Bridges  
Daily Courier  
Denny's  
Express Lube  
The Foundation of Southern  
Oregon  
Gates Home Furnishings  
Gilbert Creek ESD  
Grants Pass Clinic  
Grants Pass Chiropractic  
Grants Pass DMV  
Great Western Leasing  
Grocery Outlet  
Holiday Inn Express  
Home Away From Home  
HVHS Life Skills  
Hygeia Nutrition  
Imagine That Preschool  
Josephine County Animal  
Shelter  
Josephine County Fairgrounds  
Josephine County Transit**

**Kairos  
Lewis Power Equipment  
Logan Design  
McDonalds  
Mini Pet Mart  
Mountain Mikes  
Newman United Methodist  
Church  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Oregon Travel Information  
Council  
Pacific Veterinary Clinic  
Packers Ag Supply  
Paradise Auto  
Partake  
Petco  
Planned Parenthood  
Purrfect Pet Grooming  
Rappleyea Automotive  
Redwood Nursery  
River Valley Church  
Rivers Edge Academy  
Roe Motors  
Rogue Community College  
SOS Grants Pass  
Southern Oregon ESD  
Southgate Cinemas  
Star Body Works  
Stein Enterprises  
Subway  
Ticor Title  
UCAN  
Udders Ice Cream  
Vocational Rehab  
Watch Technologies  
Wildlife Images**

# THANK YOU SPONSORS

**AllCare Health**

**Amerititle**

**Caveman Kiwanis Club**

**Engstrom Planning**

**Evergreen Federal Bank**

**Gates Home Furnishings**

**Harfst & Associates, Inc.**

**John L. Scott Real Estate**

**The Kitchen Company**

**KPD Insurance**

**Nick Alexander Films**

**Paycom**

**Rogue Shred**

**Rogue Solutions Accounting**

**Sunder Energy Solar**

**Sunshine Solar**

**Sysco**

**Tan Republic**

**Tekmanagement**

**TerraTech**

**The Glass Forge**

**Tierra Del Sol**

**US Cellular**

**Water E. Nelson Co.**

**Weekend Beer Co.**

**Wild River Brewing**

**Woolridge Creek Vineyard**

**YoungLife**

FULL DETAILS  
TO COME

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# Third Annual Golf Fundraiser

**JUNE 27, 2025**

 Dutcher Creek Golf Course

SOUTHERN OREGON  
*ASPIRE*



# JOIN OUR TEAM

**Are you inspired to make a difference in our community?**  
**Do you want to feel fulfilled by your work?**  
**Do you enjoy helping others?**

## **Excellent Benefits**

Health  
Retirement  
Paid Time Off

## **Variety of Schedule Availability**

Full-Time  
Part-Time  
On-Call  
Night/Weekend



**SCAN TO APPLY**  
or Visit [soaspire.org/careers](https://soaspire.org/careers)







# NOURISHING GREATNESS LUNCHEON

## BECOME AN EMPLOYER PARTNER

Learn how you can get involved to make a difference in the lives of adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities.

## Join Us for Lunch!

SO Aspire's Conference Center  
1477 NE 7th St, Grants Pass, OR



## NOURISHING GREATNESS

HEAR FROM PEOPLE WE SUPPORT AND  
OUR CURRENT BUSINESS PARTNERS.



**LUNCH PROVIDED. PLEASE RSVP. STARTS AT 12PM**

## CHOOSE YOUR DATE

- 6/25/24
- 8/29/24
- 10/24/24

[soaspire.org](https://soaspire.org) > Business Partnerships

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT**  
Anthony Hauckes  
541-237-3028  
[ahauckes@soaspire.org](mailto:ahauckes@soaspire.org)



# YOU CAN HELP US CHANGE LIVES



**Make a One-Time or Recurring Donation**



**SCAN TO DONATE**

or Visit [SOASPIRE.ORG/DONATE](https://SOASPIRE.ORG/DONATE)

**Checks can be mailed to**

Southern Oregon Aspire

1465 NE 7th St STE B

Grants Pass, OR 97526



THANK YOU!

